

Kennedy 'Expert' Corraled

By **HAL HENDRIX**
Miami News Latin America Editor

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

MEXICO CITY

Time and his unsurpassed talent for blundering in Latin American affairs because of inexperience appear suddenly to have caught up with Richard Nathan Goodwin.

The highly controversial, 36-year-old self appointed expert on inter-American affairs for the New Frontier, who now holds the position of deputy assistant secretary of state, was clearly shunted into a secondary role during President Kennedy's recent visit to the Mexican capital.

Goodwin was noticeably absent from the forefront of all official functions attended by President and Mrs. Kennedy here last weekend.

★ ★ ★

On the President's first trip to Latin America, which took him to Venezuela and Colombia last December, the ambitious and aggressive Goodwin was always within close range of Mr. Kennedy.

This time, Goodwin never appeared on the same platform or within camera range of the President or Mrs. Kennedy. He was not included in the official party at public or private gatherings. Quite often he was observed alone.

President Kennedy's closest companions and Latin American advisers on the Mexican trip were U. S. Ambassador Thomas C. Mann, Mike Mansfield, Senate ma-



HENDRIX

fority whip, and Edward Martin, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs and Goodwin's immediate boss.

It is known that when Martin was appointed to his present post he obtained from President Kennedy assurance that he (Martin) was to be the head man in the Inter-American Affairs Bureau of the State Department and that Goodwin was not to be permitted to run roughshod over his operation.

★ ★ ★

When the Mexican presidential visit was in the early planning stages, Martin suggested softly that perhaps it would be best at this time if Goodwin remained at home "to mind the store." Reportedly Goodwin went over Martin's head to the White House.

According to reliable diplomatic sources, a compromise deal was worked out to

enable Goodwin to assist in the advance planning for this visit and a trip to Brazil later this month, and to make the trip — providing he stayed out of Martin's hair and kept his mouth closed.

When the official White House travel roster for Mexico was issued shortly before President Kennedy's arrival last Friday, Goodwin's name was not on the list.

★ ★ ★

Observers here noted that Goodwin got his feet in his mouth on several Inter-American questions when he conducted a pre-trip briefing as a member of the advance planning party.

Likewise, they noted his behavior and attitude was somewhat different when he arrived with the Presidential party. There was none of the usual shoving forward whenever possible to share the limelight with high ranking U. S. and Mexican officials.

Experienced Latin-American officials in the state department and other related inter-American agencies have wondered for months when someone would corral Goodwin. It now appears that Martin has succeeded and Goodwin has been put in his place.